Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph on page 1, lines 9-10 with the following amended paragraph:

This application claims benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/396,929, filed July 18, 2002 and priority of Great Britain Application No. 0229934.5, filed December 20, 2002.

Please replace the paragraph on page 7, lines 10 – 13 with the following amended paragraph:

Preferentially, the p38 protein, or a part or a homologue of this protein, is expressed from one of the nucleotide sequences SEQ ID NO:1 or ~~SEQ ID NO:3~~ SEQ ID NO:4, or from a sequence exhibiting at least 65%, preferentially at least 75%, and even more preferentially at least 85% or 95% identity with one of these sequences.

Please replace the paragraph on page 7, lines 14 – 17 with the following amended paragraph:

Thus, the p38 protein, or a part or a homologue of this protein, may have one of the sequences SEQ ID NO:2 or ~~SEQ ID NO:4~~ SEQ ID NO:5, or a sequence exhibiting at least 65%, preferentially at least 75%, and even more preferentially at least 85% or 95% identity with one of these sequences.

Please replace the paragraph on page 7, lines 18 – 21 with the following amended paragraph:

According to a preferential embodiment, the parkin, or a part or a homologue of this protein, is expressed from one of the nucleotide sequences ~~SEQ ID NO:5~~, SEQ ID NO:7 or ~~SEQ ID NO:9~~ SEQ ID NO:10, or from a sequence exhibiting at least 65%, preferentially at least 75%, and even more preferentially at least 85% or 95% identity with one of these sequences.

Please replace the paragraph on page 7, lines 22 – 25 with the following amended paragraph:

The parkin, or a part or a homologue of this protein, may have ~~one of~~ the sequences ~~SEQ ID NO:6,~~ SEQ ID NO:8 ~~or SEQ ID NO:10~~, or a sequence exhibiting at least 65%, preferentially at least 75%, and even more preferentially at least 85% or 95% identity with one of these sequences.

Please replace the paragraph on page 7, lines 26 – 29 with the following amended paragraph:

Parkin variants may also be used to implement the present invention. Such variants may be those described in PCT application WO 00/31253.

Advantageously, the parkin is the human isoform of sequence ~~SEQ ID NO:5~~ SEQ ID NO:8.

Preferentially, the p38 protein is the human isoform of sequence ~~SEQ ID NO:1~~ SEQ ID NO:2.

Please replace the paragraph on page 10, lines 30 – 33 with the following amended paragraph:

a) a nucleic acid encoding a protein having at least 65% amino acid identity with a sequence SEQ ID NO:2~~, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:8 or SEQ ID NO:10~~ SEQ ID NO: 5 or SEQ ID NO:8, or a peptide fragment or a variant of the latter;

Please replace the paragraph on page 11, lines 1 – 7 with the following amended paragraph:

b) a nucleic acid comprising a polynucleotide having at least 65% nucleotide identity with a nucleic acid having a sequence SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:4 ~~SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:5,~~ SEQ ID NO:7 or ~~SEQ ID NO:9~~ SEQ ID NO:10, or a fragment or a variant of the latter;

c) a nucleic acid hybridizing, under high stringency hybridization conditions, with a nucleic acid of sequence SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:4 ~~SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:5~~, SEQ ID NO:7 or ~~SEQ ID NO:9~~ SEQ ID NO:10, or a fragment or a variant of the latter.

Please replace the paragraph on page 31, lines 20 – 21 with the following amended paragraph:

As represented diagrammatically in Figures 6A and 6B, the parkin protein of sequence ~~SEQ ID NO:4~~ SEQ ID NO: 8 is fused with an N-terminal tag, such as polyhistidine (6His).

Please replace the paragraph on page 38, lines 6-9 with the following amended paragraph:

The present invention relates to a method for determining the ability of a compound to modify the interaction between parkin and the p38 protein, and in particular to a method for screening for or detecting compounds intended for the prevention and/or treatment of neurodegenerative pathological conditions. The present invention also relates to compounds identified in the above screening method.

Please delete the paragraph on page 38, lines 10-12.